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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.,	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/918,295	07/30/2001	Eric P. Traut	068167.0108	9879

7590 01/02/2004

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EXAMINER

HOMERE, JEAN RAYMOND

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2177

DATE MAILED: 01/02/2004

14

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/918,295

Applicant(s)

TRAUT ET AL.

Examiner

Jean R. Homere

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5,6,9.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statements (IDS) submitted on 04/09/02, 04/03/02 are in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information referred to therein has been considered as to the merits.

Specification

2. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 14, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yu, US Patent No. 5,764,903.

As to claim 1, 4, Yu discloses the claimed invention including a virtual hard drive for emulating a computer system running on a host computer system (col. 2, lines 9-15 et seq.) In particular, Yu teaches a hard drive containing a first file (col. 3, lines 43-46 et seq.) Yu also teaches a second file on the hard drive, wherein said second file is stored on a different partition

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of the hard drive (differencing drive) (col. 3, lines 22-24) wherein write operations directed to said partition are forwarded to a virtual hard drive thereby expanding the size of the hard drive to accommodate the content of the write operation (col. 4, lines 45-50 et seq.)

As to claims 8 and 11, Yu discloses the claimed invention as discussed in the preceding paragraph. In addition, Yu teaches that the virtual drive appears as the hard drive of the emulated computer system (col. 5, lines 25-35 et seq.)

5. The limitations of claims 14-15, 19-20 have already been addressed in the rejection of claims 1, 4, 8, 11 above. They are therefore rejected on similar grounds.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later

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invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. Claims 2-3, 5-7, 9-10, 12-13, 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yu as applied to claims 1, 4, 11, 14 above in view of Day, III et al. ("Day"), Us Patent 6,185,580.

As to claims 2-3, 5-7, 9-10, 12-13, 16-18, Yu does not particularly teach that the hard drive is a fixed hard drive, which is dynamically expandable. Day, however, teaches an analogous system wherein the size of a hard drive is dynamically expandable through the use of a virtual disk (col. 2, lines 3-17 et seq.) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary in the art of data processing to combine the teachings of the cited references. Day's teachings would allow users of Yu's system to increase the size of their hard drive to thereby enable said hard drive to a greater range of data.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

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9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jean R. Homere whose telephone number is (703)-308-6647.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 09:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene, can be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at (703)-305-9790.

Any response to this action should be mailed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231, **or faxed to:** (703) 872-9306. Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.



Jean R. Homere
Primary Examiner, A.U. 2177
December 24, 2003